

Senate Resolution 320

By: Senators Shafer of the 48th, Zamarripa of the 36th, Thomas of the 54th, Harp of the 29th, Pearson of the 51st and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the American Red Cross and proclaiming March, 2005, American Red Cross
2 Month; and for other purposes

3 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is chartered by Congress to provide a system of relief
4 for Americans during times of disaster and, though not a government agency itself, faithfully
5 carries out its national and state responsibilities for feeding and sheltering disaster victims,
6 administering emergency first aid, coordinating disaster welfare inquiries, and distributing
7 bulk emergency relief supplies and also provides blood, health services, and mental health
8 services in times of crisis; and

9 WHEREAS, last year alone, the Red Cross helped more than 3,100 of Georgia's families
10 recover from 2,800 disasters – house and apartment fires, floods, damaging storms, and other
11 natural and manmade occurrences – in addition to feeding, sheltering, and financially
12 assisting thousands of Georgians during hurricanes Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne last fall; and

13 WHEREAS, more than 30,000 of Georgia's military service members and their families
14 turned to the Red Cross last year for emergency services including help in relaying the news
15 of births, deaths, serious illnesses, and other urgent family matters; and Georgia's refugees,
16 who lose touch with their loved ones due to changing world conditions, can also turn to the
17 Red Cross for help; and

18 WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is saving lives in Georgia every day, empowering
19 individuals, families, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and organizations to partner in
20 building safer, stronger communities by participating in Together We Prepare, a program
21 encouraging citizens to make a disaster plan; build an emergency supplies kit; get trained in
22 first aid and CPR; volunteer to help others prepare; and give blood regularly – and through
23 its efforts, is better preparing Georgians for the unexpected; and

1 WHEREAS, last year, nearly 320,000 Georgians took the time to learn lifesaving skills from
2 a Red Cross instructor including first aid, CPR, use of an automated external defibrillator,
3 water safety and lifeguarding, and how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS; while an
4 additional 25,000 Georgians gave their time as Red Cross volunteers and 187,500 Georgians
5 gave "the gift of life" by donating more than 300,000 pints of blood for local patients through
6 the American Red Cross; and

7 WHEREAS, for more than a century, the American Red Cross has been steadfast in carrying
8 out its humanitarian mission and is the organization that so many compassionate and caring
9 Georgians turn to when they want to make a difference in their communities, the nation, and
10 the world, as evidenced following the recent tsunami disaster; and

11 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body recognize the contributions of American Red Cross
12 members from across the State of Georgia including Financial Development Specialist Mary
13 Porter Hudson of the Augusta Chapter; Executive Director Catherine Carchedi of the
14 Houston/Middle Georgia Chapter; Chief Executive Officer Tim English, Board Member Lee
15 Echols, and Chief Public Affairs Officer Bill Reynolds of the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter;
16 and Executive Director Jim Martin of the Northeast Georgia Chapter who are visiting the
17 capitol on March 2, 2005.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
19 join the President of the United States, the Governor of Georgia, and government officials
20 across the country in proclaiming March, 2005, American Red Cross Month and call upon
21 all citizens to support and honor this organization and recognize its proud heritage of service
22 by taking the pledge to become partners in preparedness.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
24 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the American Red Cross.